Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 3 (Cancelled)

Claims 4 to 22 (Previously Withdrawn)

Claims 23 to 27 (Cancelled)

Claims 28 to 31(Previously Withdrawn)

Claims 32 to 71 (Cancelled)

72.(New) A substantially flat two-part exhaust flange comprising:

a first substantially flat part having a pipe-attachment means; and

a second annular sealing part fitting said first part, the second part having a sealing surface opposite said pipe-attachment means, the sealing surface defining a protrusion or a cavity;

wherein the first part or the second part or both are manufactured of sintered powdered metal.

73.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 in which the second part fits into a recess of the first part.

74.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 73 in which the recess extends through the first part.

75.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 73 in which the first and the second parts are stepped, a shoulder of the first part being arranged to abut the second part within the recess.

76.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 further comprising one or more reinforcement ribs.

77.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 further comprising weight reduction means.

78.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 77 wherein said weight reduction means comprises at least one hole through said flange.

79.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 including bolt mounting holes arranged to receive threaded bolts onto which nuts are threadable.

80.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 79 having generally concave recesses around said mounting holes for receipt of spherical portions of bolts inserted within said holes.

81.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 including a curved extension protruding in a direction opposite to said cavity or protrusion, the extension arranged to be fitted into an end of an exhaust pipe, thereby deforming the exhaust pipe to form a joint.

82.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 81 in which the extension has a groove surround by an inner ridge and an outer ridge, arranged on an outer surface of the extension.

83.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 in which the first part and said second part are sintered together.

84.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 further comprising an annular gasket recess arranged on the sealing surface.

85.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 72 including gasket protrusions.

86.(New) An exhaust flange as claimed in claim 84 in which the gasket recess is generally oval.

87.(New) An exhaust flange assembly comprising a flat two-part first flange as claimed in claim 72, in combination with a second flange having a sealing surface of a shape complementary to the sealing surface of the second annular sealing part.

88.(New) A method of producing a substantially flat two-part exhaust flange, comprising:

(i) press-forming from powdered metal one or both of:
  (a) a first substantially flat part; and
  (b) a second annular sealing part fitting said first part, the second part having a sealing surface defining a protrusion or a cavity;
(ii) fitting the first and second parts together; and
(iii) bonding the parts to form a flange.

89.(New) A method as claimed in claim 88 in which both parts are manufactured from metal powder.

90.(New) A method as claimed in claim 89 in which the parts are bonded by sintering.